

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /059 W

-----010729 210816Z /23

R 210519Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5228

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6075

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJECT: YUN PO-SUN, DUP GIVEN PRESS ATTENTION

REF: SEOUL 5664

SUMMARY: TWO OF KOREA'S MORE INTRANISGENT OPPOSITION FIGURES, FORMER PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN AND THE DUP'S YANG IL-TONG, RECEIVED LOCAL PRESS ATTENTION RECENTLY. ALTHOUGH PRESS WILLINGNESS TO GIVE THEM SPACE MIGHT BE TAKEN AS SIGN OF GREATER FREEDOM OF PRESS, IN FACT, ARTICLES MIGHT HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO HARM RATHER THAN HELP YUN AND YANG. END SUMMARY.

1. TONGA AND CHOSUN ILBO JULY 18 CARRIED EXCERPTS OF WHAT THE PAPERS DESCRIBED AS A CONSTITUTION DAY STATEMENT OF YUN PO-SUN. YUN WAS QUOTED AS REAFFIRMING HIS BELIEF IN FREEDOM AND URGING ROKG TO RESTORE DEMOCRACY AS BEST WAY TO BRING ABOUT VOLUNTARY NATIONAL CONSENSUS. HOWEVER, BRIEF EXCERPTS WERE FOLLOWED BY QUOTES FROM YUN'S LETTER OF JULY 4 (RETEL) TO PRIMIN FUKUDA OF JAPAN CALLING FOR NEW JAPANESE POLICY TOWARD KOREA TO INFLUENCE ROKG DOMESTIC POLICY.

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2. DISSIDENT SOURCES INFORM EMBASSY THAT IN FACT CONSTITUTION DAY STATEMENT WAS NOT SOLELY A YUN PO-SUN DELCARATION, BUT A STATEMENT BY TEN SIGNERS OF MARCH 22 CHARTER. DISSIDENTS ACCUSE ROKG OF MANIPULATING LOCAL PRESS TREATMENT OF STORY BY SINGLING OUT YUN AS AUTHOR OF STATEMENT AND COMBINING EXCERPTS WITH PARTS OF YUN LETTER. AS A RESULT, DISSIDENTS CLAIM IMPACT OF STATEMENT WAS LOST AND, AT SAME TIME, PUBLIC WAS INFORMED OF

UNPOPULAR THEME IN YUN'S LETTER. ONE SOURCE SAYS FORMER PRESIDENT HAS RECEIVED MANY TELEPHONE CALLS FROM READERS WHO SCOLDED HIM FOR INVITING JAPANESE INTERFERENCE IN KOREAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

3. PRESS HAS ALSO BRIEFLY COVERED DUP CNETRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND DUP ATTACK ON DRP/NDP JOINT RECOMMENDATION ON RELEASE OF PRISONERS. PRESS TREATMENT FAILED TO CLARIFY WHY DUP OPPOSED RECOMMENDATION, WHICH WAS BECAUSE OF BACKSTAGE DEALING BETWEEN NDP AND RULING PARTIES, AND THUS DUP'S YANG IL-TONG WAS MADE TO APPEAR A MINDLESS OPPONENT OF EVEN THE MOST REASONABLE INITIATIVES. SEMI GOVERNMENT KYONG HYANG SHINMUN DID REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT 20 RELATIVES OF EM-9 PRISONERS ATTENDED DUP CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

4. SOME NEWSMEN TOLD EMBOFF THAT PRESS PRINTED THESE MATERIALS ON THEIR OWN, BUT SIMILARITY OF TREATMENT MAKES US SUSPECT THAT SOME OFFICIAL HAND MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED. SNEIDER

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009